

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LAGOS 03227 01 OF 02 141442Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CA-01 INR-10 PER-01 OC-06 CCO-00  
CIAE-00 MMO-01 SP-02 FBOE-00 ABF-01 SIG-03 INRE-00  
A-01 SS-15 SSO-00 USIE-00 /052 W  
-----102142 141522Z /45

O P 141347Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7145  
INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA PRIORITY  
AMCONSUL IBADAN IMMEDIATE  
AMCONSUL KADUNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 LAGOS 3227

ACCRA FOR SENIOR INSPECTOR ARNOLD

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: AMGT ASIG NI  
SUBJECT: RECOMMENDED CLOSURE OF IBADAN CONSULATE

1. SUMMARY. THE EMBASSY CONCURS IN THE INSPECTORS' RECOMMENDATION THAT THE IBADAN CONSULATE BE CLOSED AS OF AUGUST 1 AND REQUESTS THE DEPARTMENT TO REACH A DECISION ON THE ISSUE THIS WEEK IF AT ALL POSSIBLE. IT ALSO REQUESTS THAT ONE OFFICER POSITION IN THE CONSULATE BE TRANSFERRED TO THE EMBASSY AS OF AUGUST 1. END SUMMARY.

2. THE DRAFT OVERVIEW WHICH INSPECTOR SHELDON KRYE LEFT BEHIND AT THE IBADAN CONSULATE ON FEBRUARY 14, AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE INSPECTION, RECOMMENDED THAT THE CONSULATE, BUT NOT THE USIS OFFICE THERE, BE CLOSED ON AUGUST 1. SENIOR INSPECTOR TERRELL ARNOLD SUBSEQUENTLY VISITED IBADAN AND CONCURRED IN THIS RECOMMENDATION.

3. THE EMBASSY HAS BEEN CONSIDERING IN RECENT MONTHS THE QUESTION OF CLOSING THE IBADAN CONSULATE AND HAS TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT  
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PAGE 02 LAGOS 03227 01 OF 02 141442Z

INTER ALIA, THE CONSIDERATIONS ADVANCED BY PRINCIPAL OFFICER HOYT WHICH ARGUE AGAINST CLOSURE. WE AGREE WITH THE INSPECTORS' RECOMMENDATION TO CLOSE. THE CONSULATE HAS BEEN OF VALUE TO THE MISSION BUT WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THIS VALUE WILL BE SUFFICIENT IN THE FUTURE TO JUSTIFY THE COSTS INVOLVED AND THE MORALE PROBLEMS WHICH LIVING CONDITIONS IN IBADAN PRESENT FOR FOREIGN SERVICE PERSONNEL. MOREOVER, THE OPENING OF THE IBADAN-LAGOS EXPRESSWAY,

WHICH MAY TAKE PLACE AS EARLY AS JUNE 1, WILL MAKE IT SOMEWHAT EASIER FOR VISA APPLICANTS FROM THAT AREA TO VISIT LAGOS AND FOR EMBASSY PERSONNEL TO VISIT IBADAN.

4. CONSUL HOYT HAS INFORMED US THAT CLOSURE BY AUGUST 1 SHOULD BE FEASIBLE PROVIDED THAT THE DEPARTMENT TAKES A DECISION NOW. HE HAS ALSO BROUGHT TO OUR ATTENTION NUMEROUS ACTIONS WHICH NEED TO BE TAKEN VERY QUICKLY IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE PROBLEMS ARISING FROM CLOSURE OF THE POST. FOR EXAMPLE, THE S-693-FBO-23 OFFICE LEASE REQUIRES 90 DAYS NOTICE BEFORE JUNE 30, 1978 TO TERMINATE OR, REPEAT, OR RENEW. A DECISION IN THAT REGARD MUST THEREFORE BE MADE PRIOR TO APRIL 1, 1978, REPEAT, APRIL 1, 1978.

5. THE EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT THE DEPARTMENT INSTRUCT IT WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS THAT THE IBADAN CONSULATE SHOULD BE CLOSED BY AUGUST 1. IN THE MEANTIME ALL CONCERNED SHOULD EXERCISE CAUTION TO INSURE THAT WORD OF THIS FORTHCOMING ACTION DOES NOT LEAK TO NIGERIANS. ONCE THE DEPARTMENT'S AUTHORIZATION TO CLOSE IBADAN HAS BEEN RECEIVED, THE EMBASSY WILL NOTIFY THE FMG BEFORE MR. HOYT INFORMS APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES IN HIS DISTRICT. WHILE THE CONVEYING OF THIS INFORMATION WILL CALL FOR CAREFUL HANDLING LEST SOME NIGERIANS WONDER WHETHER THE CLOSURE IS RELATED IN SOME WAY TO THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT, WE BELIEVE THE FMG WILL ACCEPT OUR ARGUMENT THAT A SEPARATE CONSULAR PRESENCE IN IBADAN CANNOT BE JUSTIFIED WHEN OUR CONSULAR OFFICES IN LAGOS CAN ADEQUATELY SERVE IBADAN'S NEEDS. THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE DECISION BY THE DEPARTMENT WILL HELP  
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PAGE 03 LAGOS 03227 01 OF 02 141442Z

US IN THIS REGARD, AS WE BELIEVE MISINTERPRETATIONS ARE LESS LIKELY TO ARISE IF THE FMG IS NOTIFIED BEFORE RATHER THAN DURING OR AFTER THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT.

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 03227 02 OF 02 141504Z  
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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CA-01 INR-10 PER-01 OC-06 CCO-00  
CIAE-00 MMO-01 SP-02 FBOE-00 ABF-01 SIG-03 INRE-00  
A-01 SS-15 SSO-00 USIE-00 /052 W  
-----102394 141524Z /45  
O P 141347Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7146  
INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA PRIORITY  
AMCONSUL IBADAN IMMEDIATE  
AMCONSUL KADUNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 LAGOS 3227

ACCRA FOR SENIOR INSPECTOR ARNOLD

6. ASSUMING THAT THE DEPARTMENT CONCURS IN THE RECOMMENDATION TO CLOSE THE CONSULATE, THE EMBASSY AND CONSULATE IBADAN RECOMMEND THAT IT INITIATE ACTION IMMEDIATELY WITH REGARD TO THE FOLLOWING PERSONNEL TRANSFERS: (A) PER SHOULD NOTE THAT PRINCIPAL OFFICER HOYT WILL COMPLETE HIS ASSIGNMENT EARLIER THAN PREVIOUSLY EXPECTED, BY AUGUST 1 AT THE LATEST. HE WILL THEN BE AVAILABLE FOR REASSIGNMENT. (B) ASSIGNMENT OF A REPLACEMENT FOR MR. HOYT SHOULD BE CANCELLED. (C) PER SHOULD NOTE MR. HILTS'S NEW AVAILABILITY DATE AND PERMIT HIM TO COMPETE FOR THIS SUMMER'S JOBS. HIS ETD WILL LIKELY BE AUGUST 1. (D) COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS OFFICER THOMAS CASEY HAS ORDERS TO DEPART FOR PARIS ON MAY 20. IN VIEW OF THE SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES OF HIS CASE, WITH WHICH PER IS FAMILIAR, WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT THESE ORDERS NOT BE CHANGED. WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT THE ASSIGNMENT OF MR. RUSSELL LECLAIR, JR., WHOSE DTA IBADAN IS MAY 17, SHOULD BE CANCELLED AND THAT A COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS OFFICER WHO IS TECHNICALLY QUALIFIED ON THE EQUIPMENT IN IBADAN SHOULD BE SENT THERE ON TDY PRIOR TO MAY 20. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE AF ROVER IS NOT, REPEAT, NOT TECHNICALLY QUALIFIED FOR THIS EQUIPMENT. (E) WITH REGARD TO SECRETARY JANICE YEADON (UNTIL RECENTLY WEIDBERG), WE SEE NO PRESENT REASON TO CHANGE HER  
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PAGE 02 LAGOS 03227 02 OF 02 141504Z

ETD OF JUNE 30. WE MAY SUBSEQUENTLY WISH TO CONSIDER A MONTH'S EXTENSION OR A TDY REPLACEMENT IF THE JULY WORK NEEDS REQUIRE SECRETARIAL ASSISTANCE.

7. IF THE DEPARTMENT CONCURS IN THE RECOMMENDATION TO CLOSE THE IBADAN CONSULATE, THE EMBASSY STRONGLY RECOMMENDS THAT ONE OF THE OFFICER POSITIONS THUS VACATED BE TRANSFERRED TO THE ECONOMIC SECTION OF THIS EMBASSY. WE HAVE BEEN PETITIONING THE DEPARTMENT FOR MANY MONTHS TO RESTORE THE POSITION IN THIS SECTION WHICH WAS TAKEN FROM THE EMBASSY TWO YEARS AGO, PARTICULARLY SINCE THE WORKLOAD IS CONSIDERABLY GREATER NOW THAN IT WAS AT THAT TIME. THE MOST RECENT DISCUSSION OF OUR NEEDS WAS CONTAINED IN THE AMBASSADOR'S LETTER OF NOVEMBER 28 TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE.  
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